I. Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows with the following version of the claims in accordance with revised 37 CFR § 1.121.

1. (Currently Amended)   A method for operating a data sharing application in a peer-to-peer network, wherein the application executes on a source node, the method comprising:

establishing a connection between the source node and a target node in the peer-to-peer network;

receiving node characterizing data from the target node, wherein the node characterizing data contains information classification data for content data that is available from the target node, wherein the information classification data indicates multiple categories into which content data that is available from the target node has been classified; and

displaying the node characterizing data within the application at the source node.

2. (Original)   The method of claim 1 further comprising:
automatically requesting the node characterizing data from the target node in response to establishing a connection with the target node.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1 wherein content data that is available from the target node includes content data that is stored at the target node and content data that is stored at nodes from which the target node is able to retrieve data.
wherein the node characterizing data contains an information classification for data available to be shared by the target node.

5.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim <u>4 wherein the</u>
<u>information classification data for content data that is</u>
<u>available from the target node includes information</u>
<u>classification data that has been received at the target node</u>
<u>from other nodes.</u>
~~4 wherein the node characterizing data contains information~~
~~topology data associated with a node connected to the target~~
~~node.~~

6.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim <u>4 wherein the</u>
<u>information classification data for content data that is</u>
<u>available from the target node includes information</u>
<u>classification data that has been received at the target node</u>
<u>from other nodes within a number of links from the target node.</u>
~~1 wherein the node characterizing data contains information~~
~~topology data associated with nodes connected to the target node.~~

7.   (Currently Amended)   The method of claim <u>4 wherein the</u>
<u>node characterizing data includes an indication of a measure of a</u>
<u>depth of links from which the target node has received</u>
<u>information classification data.</u>
~~6 wherein the information topology data is derived from nodes~~
~~within a specified number of links from the target node.~~

8.   (Canceled).

9.   (Canceled).

10.   (Canceled).

11.   (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended)   An apparatus for operating a data sharing application in a peer-to-peer network, wherein the application executes on a source node, the apparatus comprising:

establishing means for establishing a connection between the source node and a target node in the peer-to-peer network;

receiving means for receiving node characterizing data from the target node, wherein the node characterizing data contains information classification data for content data that is available from the target node, wherein the information classification data indicates multiple categories into which content data that is available from the target node has been classified; and

displaying means for displaying the node characterizing data within the application at the source node.

13. (Original)   The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising:

requesting means for automatically requesting the node characterizing data from the target node in response to establishing a connection with the target node.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended)   The apparatus of claim 12 wherein content data that is available from the target node includes content data that is stored at the target node and content data that is stored at nodes from which the target node is able to retrieve data.

12 wherein the node characterizing data contains an information classification for data available to be shared by the target node.

16.   (Currently Amended)   The apparatus of claim <u>15 wherein</u> <u>the information classification data for content data that is</u> <u>available from the target node includes information</u> <u>classification data that has been received at the target node</u> <u>from other nodes.</u> ~~12 wherein the node characterizing data contains information~~ ~~topology data associated with a node connected to the target~~ ~~node.~~

17.   (Currently Amended)   The apparatus of claim <u>15 wherein</u> <u>the information classification data for content data that is</u> <u>available from the target node includes information</u> <u>classification data that has been received at the target node</u> <u>from other nodes within a number of links from the target node.</u> ~~12 wherein the node characterizing data contains information~~ ~~topology data associated with nodes connected to the target node.~~

18.   (Currently Amended)   The apparatus of claim <u>15 wherein</u> <u>the node characterizing data includes an indication of a measure</u> <u>of a depth of links from which the target node has received</u> <u>information classification data.</u> ~~17 wherein the information topology data is derived from nodes~~ ~~within a specified number of links from the target node.~~

19.   (Canceled).

20.   (Canceled).

21.   (Canceled).

22.   (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) A computer program product on a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system for operating a data sharing application in a peer-to-peer network, wherein the application executes on a source node, the computer program product comprising:

instructions for establishing a connection between the source node and a target node in the peer-to-peer network;

instructions for receiving node characterizing data from the target node, wherein the node characterizing data contains information classification data for content data that is available from the target node, wherein the information classification data indicates multiple categories into which content data that is available from the target node has been classified; and

instructions for displaying the node characterizing data within the application at the source node.

24. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 further comprising:

instructions for automatically requesting the node characterizing data from the target node in response to establishing a connection with the target node.

25. (Canceled).

26. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein content data that is available from the target node includes content data that is stored at the target node and content data that is stored at nodes from which the target node is able to retrieve data. wherein the node characterizing data contains an information classification for data available to be shared by the target node.

27.   (Currently Amended)   The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the information classification data for content data that is available from the target node includes information classification data that has been received at the target node from other nodes.

23 wherein the node characterizing data contains information topology data associated with a node connected to the target node.

28.   (Currently Amended)   The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the information classification data for content data that is available from the target node includes information classification data that has been received at the target node from other nodes within a number of links from the target node.

23 wherein the node characterizing data contains information topology data associated with nodes connected to the target node.

29.   (Currently Amended)   The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the node characterizing data includes an indication of a measure of a depth of links from which the target node has received information classification data.

28 wherein the information topology data is derived from nodes within a specified number of links from the target node.

30.   (Canceled).

31.   (Canceled).

32.   (Canceled).

33.   (Canceled).